



November 12, 2014

## **KANSAS BULLETIN NO. KS300-15-7**

### **SUBJECT: LTP–Waiver to Begin a Conservation Practice**

**Purpose:** To provide guidance on starting conservation practices (CPs) included in conservation program contracts (CPCs) prior to contract approval and obligation

**Expiration Date:** September 30, 2016

CPs started or completed before CPC approval and obligation are not eligible for payments in accordance with the applicable program regulation and the CPC appendix. Starting a CP or engaging the services of a technical service provider before the contract is approved by the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) renders an applicant ineligible for payment.

A waiver for starting financially assisted practices may be granted by the state conservationist (STC). Requests for a waiver to this provision must be made in writing. Waivers may be considered in special cases and for meritorious reasons for applications that meet all eligibility requirements described in Title 440, Conservation Programs Manual (CPM), Part 512, Section 512.24, “Processing Applications,” provided all of the following additional conditions are met:

- The CP was not started prior to the waiver being approved by the STC.
- They have an up-to-date conservation plan and completed Form NRCS-CPA-52, Environmental Evaluation Worksheet.
- Meritorious reasons are documented, which include any of the following:
  - Alleviation of imminent and significant environmental problems
  - Prevention of endangerment to life or property
  - Unusual or extreme weather constraints
  - Other significant reasons
    - Explanation must be provided for justification

For an applicant to remain eligible, the waiver must be granted after application for the program has been made but before starting the CP; otherwise, the applicant is ineligible to receive financial assistance for the CP once the CPC is signed. This waiver will expire on

(more)

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September 30 of the current fiscal year. Field offices (FOs) will inform applicants who have been granted a waiver that this waiver does not guarantee contract approval and that they may be ineligible to receive payments if either the applicant or CP does not meet all the NRCS requirements.

Attached is a template for a waiver to begin a CP.

**Contact:** Please forward feedback through established channels to Corey L. Nelson, Resource Conservationist, at (785) 823-4580 or [corey.nelson@ks.usda.gov](mailto:corey.nelson@ks.usda.gov).

*(Signed)*

ERIC B. BANKS  
State Conservationist

Attachment